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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,750

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, MIKIO

Examiner

Vincent Rudolph

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clough ('982) in view of Iida (Pub. # 20030020813).

Regarding claim 1, Clough ('982) discloses a print service system (**See Figure 1**) that includes an imaging apparatus (digital camera, **See Figure 1, Element 112**) that outputs image data of a photo image obtained by capturing an object (image data is taken and stored onto a digital media card, **See Col. 3, Line 39-45**), a first recording device that records the image data (records the image data by storing it using a digital media card, **See Col. 3, Line 39-45**), and a first communications device that transmits the image data recorded to a predetermined home server apparatus (image data file, **See Figure 1, Element 116**, is transferred to an external device, such as a PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B; Col. 3, Line 46-48**); a predetermined home server apparatus (**See Figure 102A-B**) that includes a second communications device that receives the image data from the imaging apparatus (coupled to the digital camera, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, so that image data is able to be sent and received, **See Col. 3, Line 45-48**), a second recording device that records the image data received (receives the image data file, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**), and a third communications device that

automatically transmits the image data and a predetermined user information to a predetermined print server apparatus (provides the device, **See Figure 1, Element 108**, automatically with the predetermined user specified image data file through the Internet (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**), and the predetermined print server apparatus (**See Figure 1, Element 108**) that includes a fourth communications device that receives the image data and the predetermined user information from the home server apparatus (the image data file associated with the user is sent from the PC over the network and received by the device (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**), a third recording device that records the image data received for each user specified (the receiver within the device receives, **See Col. 4, Line 41-44**, and records the image data associated with the user by storing it, **See Col. 6, Line 2-5**), and a first output device that outputs the image data recorded to a medium when the user issues an order (user sends the image data file initially from the digital camera to be outputted using the printing device, **See Col. 3, Line 7-10**, once received, **See Col. 4, Line 41-44**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose having a user data management device that manages the image data of a user, which updates at least one of a total pieces of image data and a total amount of image data specified by the predetermined user information each time image data is received, and automatically transmits message information to equipment registered in advance for the user when the updated result exceeds a predetermined value, so that the message information includes a proposal for the user to output the image data to a medium.

lida (Pub. # 20030020813) discloses a user data management device (portable terminal, **See Figure 2**) includes the management information of the user (a code for the predetermined amount of image data to be saved, **See Page 8, Paragraph 0075 and 0077**) as well as updates the total pieces of image data received (the remaining amount of image data from the total amount is updated for the user to view, **See Page 8-9, Paragraph 0085**) and transmits message information for the user whenever it exceeds a predetermined value so that it includes a proposal to output the image data to a medium (when the remaining number of images exceeds a predetermined amount, such as zero, a message suggests the user enter a code, **See Figure 6B; Page 9, Paragraph 0086**, in order to output additional image data, **Page 9, Paragraph 0088**, to an image server for printing, **See Figure 6H; Page 8, Paragraph 0076**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a user management device, such as the one disclosed within lida (Pub. # 20030020813), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it allows the database to keep track of the amount of image data remaining so that specified user knows the correct predetermined amount remaining rather than having the user guess the amount left.

Regarding claim 2, Clough ('982) discloses communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received

matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**).

Regarding claim 4, Clough ('982) discloses that the image data transmitted by the imaging apparatus is not assigned an identifier, and the identifier is assigned to the image data already transmitted to the home server apparatus from the imaging apparatus (the image data file is transferred, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**, and monitored to verify that the it was successfully transferred (even though it discloses being transferred to the device, it would have been obvious to do the same with the PCs since it also is able to receive the image data from the digital camera, **See Col. 3, Line 19-20**), **See Col. 5, Line 6-9**).

Regarding claim 7, Clough ('982) discloses a print service system (See Figure 1) that includes an imaging apparatus (digital camera, See Figure 1, Element 112) that outputs image data of a photo image obtained by capturing an object (image data is taken and stored onto a digital media card, **See Col. 3, Line 39-45**), a first recording device that records the image data (records the image data by storing it using a digital media card, **See Col. 3, Line 39-45**), and a first communications device that transmits the image data recorded to a predetermined home server apparatus (image data file, **See Figure 1, Element 116**, is transferred to an external device, such as a PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B; Col. 3, Line 46-48**); and a predetermined home server apparatus (**See Figure 102A-B**) that includes a second communications device that receives the image data from the imaging apparatus (coupled to the digital camera, **See**

Col. 3, Line 14-16, so that image data is able to be sent and received, **See Col. 3, Line 45-48**), a second recording device that records the image data received (receives the image data file, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**), and a third communications device that automatically transmits the image data and a predetermined user information to a predetermined print server apparatus (provide the device, **See Figure 1, Element 108**, automatically with the predetermined user specified image data file through the Internet (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose having a user data management device that manages the image data of a user, which updates at least one of a total pieces of image data and a total amount of image data specified by the predetermined user information each time image data is received, and automatically transmits message information to equipment registered in advance for the user when the updated result exceeds a predetermined value, so that the message information includes a proposal for the user to output the image data to a medium.

Iida (Pub. # 20030020813) discloses a user data management device (portable terminal, **See Figure 2**) includes the management information of the user (a code for the predetermined amount of image data to be saved, **See Page 8, Paragraph 0075 and 0077**) as well as updates the total pieces of image data received (the remaining amount of image data from the total amount is updated for the user to view, **See Page 8-9, Paragraph 0085**) and transmits message information for the user whenever it exceeds a predetermined value so that it includes a proposal to output the image data to a medium (when the remaining number of images exceeds a predetermined amount,

such as zero, a message suggests the user enter a code, **See Figure 6B; Page 9, Paragraph 0086**, in order to output additional image data, **Page 9, Paragraph 0088**, to an image server for printing, **See Figure 6H; Page 8, Paragraph 0076**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a user management device, such as the one disclosed within Iida (Pub. # 20030020813), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it allows the database to keep track of the amount of image data remaining so that specified user knows the correct predetermined amount remaining rather than having the user guess the amount left.

Regarding claim 8, Clough ('982) discloses that the second recording device is either a non-volatile storage device that stores the image data for a plurality of image or a volatile storage device that temporarily stores the image data (transferred to the either PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B, See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, and forward it to the device (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**, thus the data stored is in a volatile storage device since it is forwarded to the destination to be stored there, **See Col. 6, Line 2-5**).

Regarding claim 9, Clough ('982) discloses communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3,**

Line 14-16, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**).

Regarding claim 11, Clough ('982) discloses that the image data transmitted by the imaging apparatus is not assigned an identifier, and the identifier is assigned to the image data already transmitted to the home server apparatus from the imaging apparatus (the image data file is transferred, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**, and monitored to verify that the it was successfully transferred (even though it discloses being transferred to the device, it would have been obvious to do the same with the PCs since it also is able to receive the image data from the digital camera, **See Col. 3, Line 19-20**), **See Col. 5, Line 6-9**).

Regarding claim 12, Clough ('982) discloses that the second recording device is either a non-volatile storage device that stores the image data for a plurality of image or a volatile storage device that temporarily stores the image data (transferred to the either PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B, See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, and forward it to the device (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**, thus the data stored is in a volatile storage device since it is forwarded to the destination to be stored there, **See Col. 6, Line 2-5**), and communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance

(once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**).

Claims 3, 5-6, 10 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clough ('982) in view of Iida (Pub. # 20030020813) as applied to claims 1 and 7, and further in view of Batman (Pub. # 20040003151).

Regarding claim 3, Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (**See Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending on the life of the battery.

Regarding claim 5, Clough ('982) discloses communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits

predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (**See Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending of the life of the battery.

Regarding claim 6, Clough ('982) discloses communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which

receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, See **Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**), and the image data transmitted by the imaging apparatus is not assigned an identifier, and the identifier is assigned to the image data already transmitted to the home server apparatus from the imaging apparatus (the image data file is transferred, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**, and monitored to verify that the it was successfully transferred (even though it discloses being transferred to the device, it would have been obvious to do the same with the PCs since it also is able to receive the image data from the digital camera, **See Col. 3, Line 19-20**), **See Col. 5, Line 6-9**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (See **Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to

resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending of the life of the battery.

Regarding claim 10, Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (**See Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending of the life of the battery.

Regarding claim 13, Clough ('982) discloses that the second recording device is either a non-volatile storage device that stores the image data for a plurality of image or a volatile storage device that temporarily stores the image data (transferred to the either PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B, See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, and forward it to the device (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**, thus the data stored is in a volatile storage device since it is forwarded to the destination to be stored there, **See Col. 6, Line 2-5**), and communications between the imaging apparatus and the home

server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (**See Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending of the life of the battery.

Regarding claim 14, Clough ('982) discloses that the second recording device is either a non-volatile storage device that stores the image data for a plurality of image or a volatile storage device that temporarily stores the image data (transferred to the either

PC, **See Figure 1, Element 102A-B, See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, and forward it to the device (by way of example), **See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 53-59**, thus the data stored is in a volatile storage device since it is forwarded to the destination to be stored there, **See Col. 6, Line 2-5**), communications between the imaging apparatus and the home server apparatus are performed by wireless communications (**See Figure 1; Col. 3, Line 14-16**), the image apparatus transmits predetermined imaging apparatus information to the home server apparatus, which receives the image data only when then imaging apparatus information received matches the information stored in advance (once the devices are coupled, **See Col. 3, Line 14-16**, the image data is able to be transferred successfully, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**), and the image data transmitted by the imaging apparatus is not assigned an identifier, and the identifier is assigned to the image data already transmitted to the home server apparatus from the imaging apparatus (the image data file is transferred, **See Col. 4, Line 12-15**, and monitored to verify that the it was successfully transferred (even though it discloses being transferred to the device, it would have been obvious to do the same with the PCs since it also is able to receive the image data from the digital camera, **See Col. 3, Line 19-20**), **See Col. 5, Line 6-9**).

Clough ('982) does not disclose that the imaging apparatus includes a cradle apparatus capable of supplying power to the imaging apparatus so that it automatically starts wireless communications with the home server apparatus whenever it is connected to the cradle apparatus.

Batman (Pub. # 20040003151) discloses a cradle (**See Figure 1, Element 104**) that is connected to a digital camera (**See Figure 1, Element 102**) and has a wireless communication to transfer image data to the local host (**See Page 2, Paragraph 0017**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a cradle, such as the one disclosed within Batman (Pub. # 20040003151), and incorporate it into the print service system of Clough ('982) because it is able to supply constant power to the camera without having the camera to resort to using a battery backup, which limits the amount of data to record and transfer, depending of the life of the battery.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Thus, the prior art of Iida is used in combination with Clough and together do meet the limitations of the claims as disclosed within the rejection above.

Based on these facts as well as having the applicant's arguments been fully considered and persuasive, **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent Rudolph whose telephone number is (571) 272-8243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Vincent Rudolph
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/Vincent Rudolph/
Acting Examiner of Art Unit 2625

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